



Cottonmouth Krewe rolls out Mardi Gras parade

Story and Photos by Spc.
Brian J. Anderson
MNC-I PAO

The 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, Louisiana National Guard, displayed some of their hometown tradition Tuesday as they rolled out a Mardi Gras parade on Camp Victory.

The Cottonmouth Krewe, 415th MIB, is accustomed to merrymaking this time of year; after all, the carnival is celebrated in the same place the unit calls home.

Although their festivities were not as fancy as the ones held in recent years by New Orleans, the spirit was still the same.

"Many of these (Soldiers) have been part of the Mardi Gras celebration since they were kids," said Lt. Col. Roy Worrall, commander, 415th MIB. "We basically brought a

piece of home to everyone."

The Cottonmouth Krewe tried to mimic the Mardi Gras traditions as close as possible, even going as far as temporarily renaming sections of Area 51 to such names as "Saint Charles Street" and "Gallier Hall."

The festivities began with the posting of the colors followed by the parade of "floats," high mobility multi-wheeled vehicles and a bus, all decorated in the traditional Mardi Gras colors, purple, green and gold.

Members of the Cottonmouth Krewe threw beads, cups and t-



The Color Guard prepares to post the colors, while Soldiers of the 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, Louisiana National Guard, throw beads out the back of one of their "floats" during the Mardi Gras Celebration at Camp Victory, Tuesday.



The queen, Spc. Rebecca Rais, 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, and king, Sgt. 1st Class Tyler Williamson, 415th MIB, show off the key to Victory during the Mardi Gras celebration Tuesday.

shirts, donated by the 415th MIB Family Readiness Group, to the guests of the festival.

When the floats drove past Gallier Hall, the Camp Victory Mayor, Lt. Col. Tracy Banister, saluted them.

Worrall and Banister presented the queen, Spc. Rebecca Rais, 415th MIB, and king, Sgt. 1st Class Tyler Williamson, 415th MIB, the key to Victory and then proposed a

toast for everyone to hear.

"If ever I seized to love, Hail Rex, Hail Zulu, let the good times roll," Worrall toasted.

The entertainment rolled on for a couple more hours with live music from the Nitty Gritty Mud Band, disc jockey service from Tramel Bracey, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and hotdogs and hamburgers cooked by the master grill man, Sgt. Christopher Brantley, 415th MIB.

"This is awesome," Banister said. "To think most of these (Soldiers') homes were destroyed, this is a great tribute in helping with recovery. This is a great way to bounce back, not just for these Soldiers, but also for the people back home who celebrated."

The festival was not as big as the ones held back home, but for the Cottonmouth Krewe it meant a lot.

"These Soldiers got spirit," said Worrall. "This memory will stay with them for a long time."

Military Police fight Baghdad traffic after curfew lifts

Story by Lance Cpl. Drew
Hendricks
MNC-I PAO

"Get over to the left as far as you can," yelled Staff Sgt. Terry Hellickson, tank commander

with the 49th Military Police Brigade. "I don't want to get any closer to the crowd than we have to. Watch out! Let off the gas, before you..."

After a four day curfew, the people of Baghdad crowded the

streets, creating traffic blocks and clogged routes throughout downtown.

Once again the Soldiers from the 49th MP Bde. had to maneuver their way through this wave of people and

vehicles Tuesday, making even the simplest missions difficult. The crowds keep the drivers on the edge of their seat and the brakes in business.

"These people just don't see TRAFFIC, page 3

In today's Victory Times:

Page 2: Learning to defend against attackers

Page 3: Water system markings, EagleCash value card

Page 4: Iraqi Special Forces graduation, three-day forecast

Page 5: Camp Victory operating hours

Learning to defend against attackers

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks
MNC-I PAO

It's midnight and nature is calling. You get up, put on your shoes and head out the tent. You leave your weapon because the portable toilet is only a few yards away. As you make your way to the toilet you're grabbed from behind, and the assailant starts to choke you and rip off your clothes, his intentions are clear. This is where the choice has to be made, fight back or become a victim.

The threat of assault is prevalent not only outside the wire but inside as well. That is why Chief Warrant Officer 3 Shawn M. Kopaczewski, personnel manager, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, and Sgt. Major Evy Lacy, equal opportunity sergeant major MNC-I, have started a self defense class here, Mar. 1.

"One of our soldiers was assaulted. I was frustrated at the threat inside the wire, and rather than sit back and complain, I contacted Sgt. Maj. Lacy and asked for her help to set up classes. I have been conducting classes since 1998 and always welcome martial artist to help us learn more," said Kopaczewski. "It sickens me that we have to worry about an enemy inside the wire when the bad guys are supposed to be outside."

The class meets every Wednesday and Friday from five to 5:30 p.m. and is open to everyone.

"This is not a women's self defense class, it is meant for anyone

who wants to be able to protect themselves, should they ever need to," said Kopaczewski.



Pfc. Claudiann Atkinson reacts to a simulated rear attack from Chief Warrant Officer 3 Shawn Kopaczewski during the self defense class at Camp Victory, Mar. 1.

According to Kopaczewski, anyone can come in at any point and learn something new. If you miss one class, just come to the next one.

"We will build on the basics every time we meet, so you won't be lost if you missed the first class," said Kopaczewski. "I want people to come because sometimes you have to protect yourself. You can't always rely on someone being there."

As unlikely as it may seem, the threat is real.

"One night I was grabbed between the trailer and the showers. Luckily I had my knife and I was able to fend him off," said Spc. Melinda Craven.

Other instances have happened throughout the base complex, enough so that action must be taken.

"I am a brother, a son and a father that is why I am happy to help and teach this class. I hate that we have to have something like this because we shouldn't have to," said Kopaczewski.

Both Kopaczewski and Lacy encourage anyone who wants to learn how to defend themselves to come to the classes. If you think you could benefit from the class, or help the class by teaching, come out.

"No matter who you are, you have to be able to defend yourself," said Kopaczewski. "You have to make the choice to say enough is enough. It's your body; you have to be able to protect yourself and avoid becoming a victim."

**DANTES/CLEP/EXCELSIOR
NOW AVAILABLE**

SEE YOUR CAMP VICTORY
EDUCATION CENTER
Bldg 2/B
E-mail Staff Sgt. Henney at
larry.henney@iraq.centcom.mil

MNC-I, CAMP VICTORY, BAGHDAD
TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT

OPEN TO ALL PERSONNEL

- Tournaments will be held twice a month (the second and last Mondays)
- Prizes will be awarded to the winner.
- Limited to 48 people (6 tables), please sign up early. Walk-ins are welcome if space is available.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Sgt. Joseph Mahoney DSN: 822-2065
joseph.mahoney@iraq.centcom.mil

**Is container management a pain in your neck?
One call, that's all!
We can help ease your pain.**

Container management made easy by utilizing the Container Management Support Tool (CMST). An easy to use web based program designed to ease your container management troubles. Contact us to coordinate training. Just give us a call, we're here to help!

1 Lt Col Kennington
kennington@iraq.centcom.mil
318-822-5419

Master Sgt. Johnson
johnson@iraq.centcom.mil
318-822-5317

We make house calls!

Talent Search

Do you have a talent that deserves recognition?
Let us be the Judge of that ...you have two opportunities

Dates: March 3 - 4 Final Auditions: March 10 - 11
Time: 3 - 5 p.m.

Location: 22nd SIG BDE CNOSC BLDG 43
(Follow the signs inside)

Selected personnel will perform and compete for prizes in the 2006 Women's History Month Talent Competition

For additional information email Staff Sgt. Jayson Sims at jayson.sims@iraq.centcom.mil or Sgt. 1st Class Marjorie Irby at marjorie.irby@iraq.centcom.mil, DSN 822-4712.

TIME: 8 p.m. **PLACE:** MWR Bldg. 124

TOURNAMENT DATES:
March 13 and 27
April 10 and 24

**AL FAW PALACE
POST OFFICE**

APO AE 09342

HOURS OF OPERATION:
Wed. 2 - 8 p.m.
Sun. 2 - 8 p.m.

Services Offered: Money Orders, Stamp Purchases, Mailing of Letters and Packages.
Cash only please. We do not accept POGs, checks, credit or debit cards.
Contact Camp Victory Main Post Office for any questions. DSN 318-822-2534 or DSN 318-822-4684

TRAFFIC

seem to care anymore,” said Spc. Zack Brake, a gunner with the 49th and a native of Chickasha, Okla. “They used to stop a block away if they saw you, now they walk right in the middle of the convoy if you don’t try to stop them.”

The crowd was seemingly unaware of the convoy except for the occasional glances. The gunners did their best to keep people back but in some areas it just couldn’t be helped.

“I yelled and used my hand signals to keep one driver away, but it wasn’t till I pointed my weapon at him that he finally backed off,” said Spc. Tommy Holley, a gunner with the 49th. “Sometimes even the weapon doesn’t seem to faze them.”

Even as car bombs, improvised explosive devices and small arms shook the streets,

the citizens went about their day-to-day activities.

“At first you think you could never get used to the explosions but after a while it becomes the norm,” said Hellickson.

While the MPs do their best to complete the mission, despite the tight conditions, the insurgents continue to cause strife.

“The insurgents seem to be targeting the Iraqi Police and security forces more than they target us,” said Brake. “We may get attacked, but only because we are with them.”

According to Brake, Hellickson and Holley the insurgents only want violence and continue to push the brink of civil war. Even while the streets are packed with innocent people, the insurgents keep pulling the trigger and blowing up all those around them.

“It’s not hopeless. The Iraqi people just

have to choose to help themselves,” said Holley. “We have had instances where the Iraqi Police fired on the Iraqi National Guard. We can’t let that continue if we are ever going to be able to leave.”

Coalition Forces continue to readapt and evolve their tactics to battle the ever-growing arsenal of the insurgents, however sometimes a show of force is enough to keep the insurgents at bay.

“We don’t usually get into firefights,” said Brake. “Mainly because the insurgents know that if they go toe-to-toe with us they will lose. So, they keep finding new ways to blow us up.”

Amidst the brutal attacks of the insurgents, people still flood the streets everyday and the MPs push through, patrolling the streets and keeping not only American personnel safe, but Iraqi citizens as well.

MARKING OF WATER SYSTEMS AS “NONPOTABLE-DO NOT DRINK”

There has been some recent concern about the marking of water trailers, ablution units, wet trailers, and other centralized hygiene areas with NONPOTABLE water signs. The water on the Victory Base complex and other base camps in Iraq is still safe to use for washing, showering, and other applications. The primary concern is the validation of potability (or drinkability) at the point of use to protect the Soldier.

Army doctrine stipulates that for water to be considered potable, the water must be generated from an approved source, through an approved treatment system, disinfected with chlorine, transported, and stored in potable water tanks. In conjunction with this, the tanks must be cleaned and sanitized on a periodic basis, the tank sampled to ensure there is chlorine left in the tank, and in the case of centralized distribution systems, such as multiple trailer units fed by a storage tank, sampled daily for chlorine levels and monthly to ensure the water is free from bacteria. Contractors are required to comply with these requirements or they must properly label the units as “NONPOTABLE – DO NOT DRINK.” The water is still considered safe for hygiene purposes such as showering, washing hands, shaving, and minor clean ups. It can be used for brushing teeth, but the preferred method is to use bottled water.

Army preventive medicine and the contractors have a plan in place to correct the monitoring requirements and sanitizing requirements that will meet the intent of the regulations, but are adjusted to reflect the hybrid field/garrison environment. The bottom line is that unless the water supply is handled as potable water and verified through testing and monitoring, it is considered nonpotable, but it is still SAFE to use for hygiene purposes.

If you have any questions, please contact your local preventive medicine assets. In the VBC, they are the 4ID Preventive Medicine Section at 847-2370, or the 898th Preventive Medicine Detachment, at 822-8250.



“Coming Soon – the Eagle Cash Stored Value Card (SVC)”

Coming this summer, service members deployed to certain locations in Iraq (Liberty Complex, LSA Anaconda, and Camp Speicher) will have a new way of managing their cash – The Eagle Cash Stored Value Card! The EagleCash card is very similar to a debit card. The cardholder places value on the card and then, as each transaction takes place, the value on the card is reduced.

Adding value to the card is easy. Service members can go to their local finance office and receive a casual pay, write a check, or exchange cash, and instead of receiving dollars, have the value immediately added to the value of their EagleCash card. Because of the embedded microchip technology, funds will become immediately available for use the minute the customer adds value to the card.

Once you have stored value on your EagleCash card, you can use it at the PX, the post office, and at most local vendors located throughout Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Afghanistan. There are no fees or interest incurred for using the EagleCash card. An important benefit of the EagleCash card is the ability to recover funds that are stolen or lost. If a service member loses money, it is gone, however, with the EagleCash card, the service member simply goes to the finance office right away and has the card turned off. The remaining money on the card will be placed on a new card. You may also receive a cash refund for any value remaining on the card at the end of your tour.

Another convenient aspect of the EagleCash card is the kiosk! The kiosk is an ATM like machine that allows a service member the ability to perform transactions on their Eagle Cash card 24 hours a day, 7 days a week without having to visit the finance office and wait in line. Using the kiosk allows a service member to transfer value directly from the bank account of their choice onto their card. No checks or casual pays required! Funds can be loaded to the card, or unloaded from the card into their bank account. Funds can also be transferred between two cards and the kiosk can also be used to check the balance of their EagleCash card. Service members need not worry about the security of their EagleCash card either. They simply select their own PIN, which is entered into the kiosk to process a transaction and can be changed at anytime at the kiosk.

The Eagle Cash card and the kiosk will be a convenient, simple and fast way for service members to manage their money without the need to carry large sums of cash and without having to wait in long lines at the finance office.



266th Finance Command

“FIRST IN FINANCE SUPPORT!”

Iraqi special ops soldiers graduate, close out counterterrorism training in Jordan

Story and photos by CJSOTF-AP Public Affairs

AMMAN, Jordan – The last group of Iraqi soldiers graduated from an elite counterterrorism course here Feb. 23, bringing to an end a special operations training partnership between Iraq, Jordan and the United States that taught more than 500 elite Iraqi troops since 2003.

During the graduation ceremony, 77 Iraqi special operators – among them Shi'a, Sunnis and Kurds – became the seventh and final class to graduate from the three-month Operator Training Course here, which will now move to a permanent training base in Iraq.

With their graduation, the Iraqi soldiers are now the newest members of the Iraqi Counterterrorism Force, one of two battalion-sized components of the Iraqi Special Operations Forces Brigade. The ISOF Brigade was created in 2004 and is responsible for conducting special operations missions throughout Iraq.

The role of Jordan and the United States in building Iraq's ability to fight terrorism within its borders is not only important to Iraq's homeland security, but to the stability of all three countries for the sake of peace and freedom, said Lt. Col. Adnan al-Abbadi, commander of Jordan's 71st Counterterrorism Battalion.



An Iraqi soldier training to join the Iraqi Counterterrorism Force participates in a live-fire demonstration exercise during the Operator Training Course graduation at the Jordanian Army's Counterterrorism Training Center near Amman, Jordan on Feb. 23. The three-month-long OTC class, the seventh since 2003, was the final class in Jordan prior to its move to Iraq. Iraqi soldiers hoping to join the ICTF, which is a component of the Iraqi Special Operations Forces Brigade, were trained during the course by Jordanian and Iraqi instructors with assistance from U.S. special operations advisers.

Adnan's unit also runs Jordan's Counterterrorism Training Center, which hosted the Iraqis and Americans for the training.

"The ICTF graduates ... are among the best hopes for building Iraq's future," said David Hale, the U.S. ambassador to Jordan, during the graduation ceremony.

"You are the front line in building the defense of freedom and Iraqi unity," Hale said to the graduates. "This class was selected from hundreds of candidates, and now, as graduates, you join the most capable Iraqi unit in the field."

U.S. Army and Navy special operations forces have served as

advisers during each class, but most recently functioned largely as observers because four ICTF soldiers – all graduates of previous OTC classes – served as primary instructors, along with four Jordanians.

It was helpful having the ICTF guys step up as instructors, because they know the tactics and techniques and have experience in fighting terrorists all over Iraq, said one U.S. Army Special Forces adviser here.

Hale said that the ICTF training program had been so successful that the time was right to move it to Iraq, where "it will be in the very capable hands" of Col. Fadhil Jameel

al-Barwari, commander, ISOF Brigade, who also attended the ceremony.

Upon leaving Jordan, the Iraqis will assume control of the OTC's administration and instruction, with U.S. special operations forces again serving as advisers to assist the ICTF trainers as needed.

The lead U.S. adviser, a Special Forces captain, said the most important education during the course wasn't on military tactics, but Iraqi-to-Iraqi relationships.

"Many of them had never even held a gun, but right now they can accurately engage threats moving at a fast pace, which is a phenomenal feat," the captain said.

"Here, they have learned advanced (close quarters battle) techniques, they've learned hand-to-hand combat," the captain continued. "But above all, they've learned trust, and they've learned that they can live with each other, whether (they are) a Sunni, or a Shi'a, or a Kurd."

"None of this would have been possible without the professionalism and competence of the Jordanian and Iraqi instructors, or the help of my fellow American advisers," he added.

Jordan's military includes a robust special operations component, and is a key ally of both the United States and Iraq in the war on terrorism.

Camp Victory Three-day forecast

Friday



Sunny
High: 77 F
Low: 54 F

Saturday



Sunny
High: 76 F
Low: 53 F

Sunday



Partly Cloudy
High: 77 F
Low: 53 F

Operating hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Shoppette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Sunday:

Protestant Service 7 and 8:45 a.m.
Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.
Gospel Service Noon
Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.
Episcopal 4 p.m.
Full Life Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.
Catholic Mass 8 p.m.
Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.
Eastern Orthodox services:

Saturday:

Vespers 5 p.m.
Confession 5:30 p.m.
Bible Study 7 p.m.

Sunday:

Divine Liturgy 9 a.m.

Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Client Services

Saturday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Personnel Service Support Centers

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ID Cards

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MNC-I presents
Builder's of Communities and Dreams
sponsored by
220 SIGNS BRIGADE
(TASK FORCE ADLER)

When: Friday, March 10, 2006
6 - 7:30 p.m.
Where: Al Faw Palace
Ballroom
Camp Victory, Iraq

Free Food
Educational,
Entertaining, Teambuilding
and Memorable

Women's History Month

Someone on the
other end of that
line...

is watching you.

0006 EDG MILL

KEEP IT LOCKED ON...
Freedom Radio

Al Asad	107.3 FM	Kirkush	107.3 FM
Ali Base	107.3 FM	Mosul	105.1 FM
Ar Ramadi	107.3 FM	Q-West	93.3 FM
Baghdad	107.7 FM	Taji	107.3 FM
Balad	107.3 FM	Tal Afar	107.3 FM
Fallujah	105.1 FM	Taqquadum	107.3 FM
Kirkuk	107.3 FM	Tikrit	100.1 FM

**Human Relations /
Equal Opportunity Office**

SELF DEFENSE CLASS
In support of the
Prevention of sexual assault
MWR Fitness Center

Find out more...

March 1, 2006: 5 - 5:30 p.m.
March 3, 2006: 5 - 5:30 p.m.

Don't live in fear. Learn the
basics of self defense.

Submit letters from home

Is your loved one deployed in support of Multi National Corps-Iraq? Would you like to write him or her a message in the Victory Times? Send messages, three to four lines of text to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil. Ensure to include Soldiers name, rank, and unit.

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil. We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

DRIVE SAFELY !!

This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.

Don't be the OTHER driver!!

MNC-I Commanding General: Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Michelle L. Martin-Hing
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Paul J. Stevenson
MNC-I Command Info Chief: Sgt. 1st Class Laurence R. Lang
MNC-I DVIDS Manager: Sgt. 1st Class Gloria E. Colon
MNC-I Production Chief: Staff Sgt. Jason B. Baker
Victory Times Editor: Spc. Brian J. Anderson
Victory Times Staff writer: Spc. James P. Hunter, Spc. Curtis W. Squires,
Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks, Pfc. Sean C. Finch

Victory Times is an authorized electronic publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of this electronic publication are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of Multi-National Corps Iraq.